

THE CAPITAL JOURNAL

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1000 Broadway, Commercial Street, S. E. HOOPER BROTHERS, - - - Editors.

LET THEM BE EQUALIZED.

The State Board of Equalization now in session will probably not repeat its outrage of last year and make a horizontal raise of any class of property. Last year they took the unwarrantable liberty of adding thirty percent to town lots and ten percent to real estate all over the state. They raised the whole state valuation some thirty millions from what it was returned by the county boards of equalization. The supreme court said they had the legal power to do so. If forty supreme court decisions said so that would not make it right. It might make it legal. Of course, the depression, one might almost say destruction, of values, the past year will leave little room for the playful fancy of the alleged tax equalizers. Their exuberant spirits may be stimulated by drawing \$10 a day for their services, but they know that no one else is making that sum per day, and that there is hardly a business or a bank or a corporation in the state earning that sum per day, or likely to this coming year, and they will hesitate before getting into any playful moods of elevating values by the score of millions.

Their plain duty is to equalize. That means, if property in adjoining counties is assessed disproportionately high or disproportionately low, they are to lower the former and raise the latter. That is equalizing. Nothing else is. They have no legal or moral right to assume that all the property in the state has returned too high, or too low. They have no autocratic power to fix values or assume anything. The power to tax is the power to destroy and the people should jealously guard any assumption of ex-carlike methods on the part of any public official when it comes to assessment and taxation. The most manifest injustice is in the way the county assessors this year advanced the valuations of town lots over last year, and the high assessment of homes and cattle. No real estate has declined in value like town and city lots since 1892 and homes and cattle will not sell for what they are assessed at.

It was undoubtedly to meet the ex-carlike ultimatum of the state board last year in raising town lots thirty percent that assessors made such an advance on that class of property this year. That illustrates the evil effect of assumptions in dealing with such matters. Tax levies on town and city property are in fixed mills, and usually to the full limit of the charter. This most perishable class of real estate, town and city property, should be reduced, if it could be done with fairness and justice to other interests. But how can it be done without increasing the burden on farming property? After all the city is better able to stand it than the farmer. The city lives off the farmer. It gathers toll off the producer and to be relieved of taxes at the expense of the farmer is out of the question. City taxes should not be levied in specific mills.

In considering valuations between counties, it is plain that Marion county is assessed relatively far above other farming counties that have as rich lands and are as finely improved communities. Marion county has had a very thorough and conscientious assessor. His work is well spoken of by all. The taxpayers committee who ask that the integrity of the Marion county assessment be maintained desired to pay their assessor a high compliment. But they did not mean that any injustice should be done to Marion county. They did not mean that her farming lands should be valued at fourteen dollars an acre and other counties will ride across the big Brooklyn bridge in 1933 than in 1932. Hard times do not respect the big corporations.

A duty of one cent a pound on sugar will bring \$45,000,000 revenue. Free wool and taxed sugar will kill any party. Des Moines, Ia., with one hundred thousand population has three daily papers. Portland, another 100,000 city has only two. R. P. Clark, the present brilliant editor of the Iowa State Register, was until 50 years of age connected solely with its business interests.

Hon. H. W. Corbett, of Portland, is rendering the people of this state signal service in his vigorous conduct of the committee of One Hundred at Portland. Buy no luxuries for the older ones unless you can afford it but do not cut off the toys and knick-knacks from the younger children at the Christmas season. The Democrats will make up their revenue deficit by increased internal revenue and legacy taxes. Whisky and death were always a source of Democratic inspiration. You will never miss that half dollar you spend at the Baby McGee benefit, you will have a happy evening, and these six little children will be that much better provided for this long dreary winter. Tickets for sale at this office.

three or four feet higher than all the rest of the town plat and then asking that all the rest be graded up to his. That would be unjust, unreasonable, foolish, insane. Does anyone propose that all the counties in the valley be raised up to Marion? All the representatives from all the counties so far heard from before the board are here asking that their counties be not raised and some ask reductions in valuations. They are right. They should not be raised up to Marion. And Marion should not be lowered to them. But all the counties should be properly and judiciously equalized.

REDUCING EXPENSES. The report of the committee on reducing city expenses does not go far enough. It is manifestly unjust to discharge men on the police force and street force who are getting mere day wages and allow the marshal's salary and fees to remain near the three thousand dollar mark. The Marshal himself would not say that it is a fair proportion. One thousand dollars is a big income these days and in reducing expenses the committee should consider this. It should be remembered that \$100 a month men a year or two since are glad to get work at \$50 a month in such positions. Incomes of all classes of professional service has been reduced and \$50 will bring as much as \$100 a few years ago.

SUGGESTED COMMENT. THE JOURNAL is not the governor's organ. \$95,000,000 was spent for drinks in Chicago last year. THE JOURNAL New Year's edition will be a creditable newspaper. The hard-times Christmas of 1893 will be long remembered. Salem is too live a town to be a good graveyard for anything. Henry George lectures on abolishing poverty for \$500 a night. In spending for Christmas throw in a half-dollar for the McGee benefit. The Kindergarten is Santa Claus's best Christmas gift for Uncle Sam's stocking. We shall know just how religious we are when that church census is completed. Poems beginning "at Christmastide when the snow is deep" do not fit in these parts. More want ads are brought to THE JOURNAL office every day than to all other daily papers in the city. Iowa boasts an illustrated literary Monthly—The Midland Magazine of Des Moines, Johnson Brigham, editor. Here is a consolation. Discussion of the Wilson Tariff ripper bill cannot make times any worse than they are. Is alcohol a poison? The physicians who examined Richard McGee's stomach, said he had been poisoned. The poor are sleeping in the cushioned pews of the big Chicago churches. It was formerly the rich who slept there. As long as Governor Altgeld is being snubbed by the people of Illinois, the rest of the country is reasonably safe. The name of ex-Governor Larrabee is connected with the presidency of the proposed Lakes and Gulf railroad project. A duty of one cent a pound on sugar will bring \$45,000,000 revenue. Free wool and taxed sugar will kill any party. Des Moines, Ia., with one hundred thousand population has three daily papers. Portland, another 100,000 city has only two. R. P. Clark, the present brilliant editor of the Iowa State Register, was until 50 years of age connected solely with its business interests.

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Governor McKinley, of Ohio, firmly adheres to his determination to have a quiet and inexpressive inauguration. There is Jeffersonian simplicity about our next president that is commendable.

TODAY'S MARKETS.

Prices Current by Telegraph—Local and Portland Quotations. SALEM, December 21, 4 p. m.—OFFICE DAILY CAPITAL JOURNAL. Quotations for day and up to hour of going to press were as follows: SALEM PRODUCE MARKET. FEEDS. Apples—30c to 50c a bushel. BUTCHER STOCK. Veal—dressed 5 cts. Hogs—dressed 5. Live cattle—14 to 2. Sheep—alive \$1.50. MILL PRICES. Salem Milling Co. quotes: Flour \$1.25 in wholesale lots \$2.50. Retail \$3.20. Bran \$14 bulk, \$15 sacked. Shorts \$15; \$17. Chop feed \$1.50. WHEAT. 43 1/2 cents per bushel. HAY AND GRAIN. Oats—new 25 to 30c. Hay—baled, new \$6 to \$10; old \$10 to \$12. Wild in bulk, \$6 to \$8. FARM PRODUCTS. Wool—Best, 10c. Hops—Small sale, 17 to 18c. Eggs—Cash, 27 1/2. Butter—Best dairy, 30; fancy creamery, 35. Cheese—12 to 15 cts. Farm spoiled meats—Bacon 12; ham, 13; shoulders, 11. Potatoes—35c. Onions—2 cents. Beans—3 cts. Caraway seed, 15c. Anise seed, 25c. Ginseng, \$1.40. LIVE POULTRY. Chickens—no market, ducks, \$8 to 10; turkeys, slow sale, choice, 10c; geese 5 to 7c. PORTLAND QUOTATIONS. Grain, Feed, etc. Flour—Standard, \$2.50; Walls Wella, \$3.15; Graham, \$2.50; superfine, \$2.25 per barrel. Oats—New white, 35c per bu. grey, 34c; rolled, 10 bags, \$6.25; 25c; barrels, \$6.75; 100 cases, \$7.25. Hay—Best, \$10 to \$12 per ton. Wild—valley, 10c to 11c. Millstuffs—Bran, 65c; shorts, 18c; ground barley, 18c; chop feed, 15c per ton; whole feed, barley, 7c a cent; middling, \$23 to 25 per ton; brewer's, \$20 to 22 per cental; chicken wheat, \$20 to 22 per cental. Hops—New 10 to 15c. Hides—green, salted, 60 lbs. 3c, under 60 lbs., 2c 3/4; sheep pelts, 10c to 60c. DAIRY PRODUCE. Butter—Oregon fancy creamery, 30c; fancy dairy, 25c to 27c; fair to good, 20c to 22c; Oregon, 15 to 17c per lb. Cheese—Oregon, 12 to 13c; Young American, 15c to 16c per pound; California 14c; Swiss, 16c; 20c; Dutch, 16c to 25c. Eggs—Oregon, 30c per dozen. Poultry—Nominal; chickens, mixed, \$2 to \$3 per dozen; ducks, \$4 to \$5.50; geese, \$3 to 4; turkeys, live, 12c; dressed, 13c. Beef—Top steers, 24c per pound; fair to good steers, 20c; cows, 2c; fat cows, 1c; dressed beef, \$3 to \$4.50 per 100 pounds. Mutton—Best sheep, \$2; choice mutton, \$1.75 to 2.00; lambs, \$2 to \$2.50. Hogs—Cull, heavy, \$4 to \$5.00; medium, \$4 to \$4.50; light and feeders, \$4 to \$4.50; dressed, \$6.50. Veal—35c to 50c.

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